

Donna Shalala, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

7553 '99 DEC -9 P2:18

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I'm writing to express my concern about the possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food that is being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. I strongly believe that it is my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

Food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. These cosmetic and nutritional changes in food warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. In addition, food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. Only honest, clear and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods.

I think this should apply to genetically altered food as well. Why is it such a big deal just to put labels on these food? Allow us to make our own **decisions....please.**

I hope that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process.

Sincerely,

*Sharon & Jack Parker*

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98N-1038

C4812

## CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1038/C4812

See File Number: 92N-0139/C6409

